



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED TO 105 MONTHS CONSECUTIVE TO STATE SENTENCE

TUCSON, Ariz. — John Montenegro Cruz, 35, of Tucson, Ariz. , was sentenced here on April 18, 2005 to 105 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Cruz was found guilty by Judge Collins of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon after a bench trial on May 17, 2004.

On July 24, 2002, a Pinal County Sheriff's deputy investigated a suspicious person call at a residence near San Manuel, Ariz. Upon arriving at the residence, the deputy observed Cruz running from the home. Cruz failed to comply with the deputy's verbal commands to stop but after a short foot chase, Cruz complied. In response to one of the deputy's questions, Cruz responded that he had a gun. The deputy searched Cruz and removed a loaded Glock from Cruz's pocket. Initially Cruz gave the deputies a false name, however, further investigation revealed his true name and that he was prohibited from possessing firearms due to his three prior felony convictions.

At sentencing the government requested that Cruz serve his federal sentence consecutive to his state sentence. On March 10, 2005, Cruz was sentenced to death by a Pima County jury for the death of Tucson Police Officer, Patrick K. Hardesty.

The investigation in this case was conducted by ATF, Tucson Police Department and the Pinal County Sheriff Department. The prosecution was handled by Maria S. Davila, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-0707-TUC-RCC
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